

but it was a sacrifice that I have to make to clean house at the university, to clean house in higher education, but I am willing to do it because we have to do that. We have to do something. The SRI report said we had to do it. Now the other point that makes me stand up, now Senator Elmer gets up and says, got to have something in rural Nebraska, and lists off the numbers of how the university budget has grown but how nothing has happened out there in rural Nebraska. Well, Senator Elmer, whose fault is that? It is the Board of Regents that has cut. It is the Board of Regents that cut the Division of Continuing Studies, you know, cut back on that. It is the Board of Regents that voted to close Curtis. They are the ones that don't care about rural Nebraska. Not us. Why should we bail them out? I don't have anything else to say.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: I withdraw the motion.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The motion is withdrawn. Anything further on the bill? Mr. President, Senator...I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: We are back to the bill itself. Senator Weihing, do you care to discuss the bill?

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, yes, I would. First, I want to commend Senator Owen Nelson (sic) on how well he answered the questions in the very beginning with regards to within the university. I was pleased to have him have the answers that he did. Having a separate budget is a necessity from the standpoint that when it is right within the total, total university budget, there are enormous pressures that are within that university for money. Having spent many years within it, I know the pressures. I want to point out that with regards to the university and its development that 40 years ago, 50 years ago, production agriculture was a very common part of the curriculum and activity of the College of Agriculture and its teachings. As technology came on, the sciences continue to grow, and for every 10 years we have 10 times as much science. If you take the number of journals that existed 50 years ago compared to the journals that exist today, you will find that we have had a total explosion of information. Now what am I getting at? And that is that the faculties have had to go more and more towards